protective works in the second and third reaches of 4,600 feet from the Sewage outfall to the end of the Corporation limits and 6½ miles from the City limit up to Ennore will be considered in due course.

11-20 a.m. SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR : What will be the total cost of land, cultivable or otherwise, that will be affected as a result of this sea erosion?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : A separate question may be put, Sir.

* 2478 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken so far either by this Government or this Government in conjunction with the Central Government, to prevent sea erosion at Dhanushkodi?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : This Government on the suggestion of the Chief Engineer, requested the Government of India, Ministry of Transport, to depute a specialist to inspect the locality and suggest ways and means of combating erosion of land by the sea.

The Government of India had stated in reply in May 1955 that the question of selecting an alternative site for the railway pier at Dhanushkodi had been referred to an Expert Technical Committee whose report was being awaited and that meanwhile, in order to prevent heavy erosion, they had sanctioned the work of constructing three groynes at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,537 and the work was expected to be completed before the south-west monsoon this year. They also stated that the effect of this remedial measure was to be ascertained before taking further steps in the matter. The Collector of Ramanathapuram has reported under date 17th August 1955 that three casuarina pile groynes extending to 150 feet into the sea and 220 feet along the seashore on the southern side of the Public Works Department buildings at Dhanushkodi were built by the railway authorities as an experiment but these have been washed off.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, this problem being a continuous one, will the Government take expert advice in the matter and prepare a long-range plan instead of considering temporary measures?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, Sir. The Central Government have referred the matter to an expert committee and we are awaiting their suggestion in the matter.